

THE EVOLUTION OF TRADE UNIONISM

The trade union movement in India has changed in recent years. Earlier, Left-affiliated trade unions were more active in calling strikes against the government's actions. For the first time in 2009, all the central trade unions came on a common platform to decide the course of action on their charter of demands jointly. Since then, three strikes have taken place – one each in 2010, 2012 and 2013. The strike in February 2013

was a two-day strike and trade unions claim a record 120 million workers had participated in it. The September 2 strike called by the trade unions are mainly to protest against the changes in the labour laws by the NDA government and 100 million workers are likely to join the strike from all sectors – banking, insurance, transport, manufacturing and postal services being a few.

Industrial disputes in the last decade

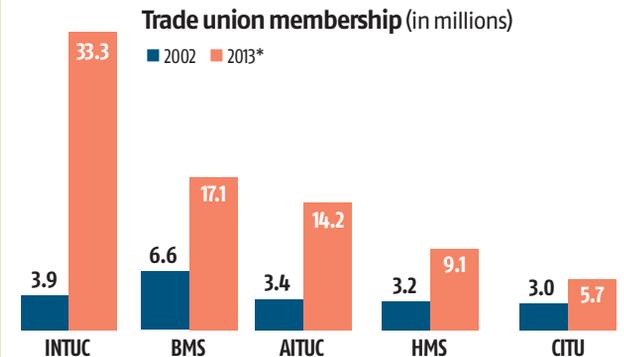
Year	Disputes	Mandays lost*	Workers involved
2005	456	29.67 mn	2,913,601
2006	430	20.32 mn	1,810,348
2007	389	27.18 mn	724,574
2008	421	17.43 mn	1,579,298
2009	345	17.62 mn	1,867,204
2010	371	23.13 mn	1,074,473
2011	370	14.46 mn	734,763
2012	447	12.88 mn	1,307,505
2013	198	3.67 mn	1,057,887
2014 (P)	143	3.64 mn	1,008,275

* total number of days lost multiplied by the workers affected in a year
(P): Provisional

Source: Ministry of labour, Indian Labour Journals

> All the central trade unions have jointly called strikes three times in the past – 2010, 2012, 2013

> Trade unions will go on a strike on Sept 2; claim 100 million people will join them



*The numbers for 2013 were claimed by the trade unions during a verification drive and have not yet been approved by the Central Labour Commissioner. The figures for 2002 are verified by the government

